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SOUTH-AMERICAN POPULAR POETRY.

BY RUDOLPH SCHULLER.

I.

THE following stanzas were collected by me in 1905, in the Villa Dolores, also named San Salvador, a small town situated in the triangle formed by the River Uruguay¹ and its tributary the Rio Negro, in the "Departamento"² of Soriano in Uruguay.³ They are improvisations of an Uruguay *payador*,⁴ and a kind of commercial advertisement composed especially for a fair held at the aforesaid town.

En un flete escarciador,
Después de una larga ausencia,
Dentré⁵ con gran resolencia⁶
Al pueblo San Salvador;
De ay⁷ buscando lo mejor,
Como paisano escamao,⁸
Agarré por de contao⁹
Para gastar bien los cobres¹⁰
Al *Almacén de los Pobres*.
Tan conocido y mentao.¹¹

No bien sujeté en la esquina
Me quedé más que tristón
Viendo sólo un barracón

¹ Probably of Tupí-Guaraní origin. The etymology "river of the carrion-vultures" (from *urubú-gua-y*, given often by South-American students) lacks proof. The name, however, still appears in the earliest documents concerning the history of the River Plate (cf. the letter of Diego García, map of D. Ribero, etc.).

² Corresponding to the "Department" of France, whose political division was adopted in that South-American Republic.

³ "República Oriental del Uruguay" is the official name.

⁴ A special type of the Hispano-American republics, and identical with the *tenzon* of the old Provençals. *Payador* is of Quechua origin, according to Rodolfo Lenz, *Diccionario Etimológico*, etc., II. Parte (Santiago de Chile, 1910), n. 1002, pp. 549-551. Lenz gives *pallador*. I have adopted, however, the pre-palatal *y*, as it is pronounced by the peasants of Uruguay. *Payador*: "el campesino que va recorriendo las reuniones populares, improvisando cantares y leyendas chistosas al son de su guitarra," is the definition given by the authors of the *Diccionario de la Real Academia* (Madrid).

⁵ For *entré*, "I stepped in."

⁶ For "courage," "resolution," "deliberation," but only used by the peasants.

⁷ For *ahí*, "there," "in that place."

⁸ *Escamado*.

⁹ *Contado*.

¹⁰ Money (copper money).

¹¹ *Mentado—renombrado*, "famous."

Como pá¹ trigo y harina;
 Pero por suerte una *china*²
 Me dijo con vos *machasa*.³—
 Que se había mudao⁴ la casa
 Mesmo⁵ en la esquina de Ruiz.—
 Y contándome feliz
 Enderecé a la otra plaza.

Vieran negocio afamado⁶
 ¡Con el que vine a toparme
 Y ansina⁷ que pude apiarme
 Me hizo quedar abobao,⁸
 Grande y todo abarrotao⁹
 De tienda y lomillería,¹⁰
 Almacén, ferretería
 Y un completo beverage
 Mil cosas para el hembraje¹¹
 Y algo de zapatería.

De ay (ahí) un mozo algo cantor,
 Después de darme una copa,
 Comenzó a mostrarme ropa
 De toda clase y valor.
 Y arriba del mostrador
 Fué amontonando fatura
 Desde la manta peluda
 Hasta el sombrero y guitarra,
 Cantándome¹² a lo chicharra
 El precio y la baratura.

¡Barbaridá!¹³ si hay de cosas
 En la casa mencionada
 Y justamente afamada
 Entre hombres, viejos y mozas;
 Allí ay¹⁴ cristales y lozas,
 Prendas de acero y de plata,
 De oro, de fierro y de lata,

¹ For *para*, "for."

² From the Quechua *china*, "female of the animals," "a little servant," "a young girl;" in a fuller sense, also *concubina*.

³ Seems to be a synonyme of *ronca*, "raucous" (?).

⁴ *Mudado*, "changed," "moved."

⁵ For *mismo*, generally employed by the lower classes.

⁶ *Afamado*, "famous."

⁷ For *así*, "thus."

⁸ *Abobao*, "stupefied."

⁹ *Abarratado*, "cheaper."

¹⁰ A store where they sell *lomillos*, "saddles and trappings of horses."

¹¹ Women; in fuller sense, *concubinae* and also "orgy."

¹² "Singing me," a synonyme of "telling me."

¹³ *Barbaridad!*

¹⁴ "There are."

Y hasta un tigre ya enseñao¹
 Que al que es amigo del fiao²
 Lo enseña con la pata.

Luego se encuentra también
 Pa³ el que yá *jiede*⁴ de pobre
 Desde galleta de a cobre
 Hasta fariña⁵ a vintén;⁶
 Y un brillante keroséne
 Casi al precio de la vela
 Yerba,⁷ azúcar y canela
 Muy barata y bien pesada
 Y una grande *porotada*⁸
 Como pá maestros de escuela;

Café, arróz y bacaláo
 De lo *güeno*⁹ y bien barato,
 Seco,¹⁰ carlón¹⁰ y priorato,¹⁰
 Francés,¹⁰ ginebra y guindao¹¹
 Rico tabaco picao,¹²
 Caña¹³ y anís superior,
 Cigarrillos de mi flor
 Y una mistela tan fina
 Que si la prueba una *china*
 Se deja hacer el amor.

Diré en fin y en conclusión
 Que hasta los mozos da gusto
 Vendiendo lindo y sin susto
 Al *gaúcho*¹⁴ más pobretón.

¹ *Ensenado*, "instructed."

² *Fiado*, "buying on credit."

³ *Para*, "for."

⁴ *Hiede*, "smells."

⁵ Mandióca flower.

⁶ A copper coin of twenty *réis* (unit, one *real*, but only imaginary).

⁷ *Ilex Paraguayensis*, the Paraguay tea.

⁸ Popular term for "a great stock of beans" (*Poroto*, of Quechua origin [see Lenz, *op. cit.*, No. 1158, pp. 627-634]).

⁹ For *bueno*, "good."

¹⁰ Different kinds of wine.

¹¹ *Guindado*, a drink of mazard-berries.

¹² Popular term for *picado*, "minced."

¹³ Sugarcane brandy, but not rum.

¹⁴ Cowboy, in former times also applied to adventurers in the vast Argentine plains termed "Pampas," often also a synonyme of "outlaw." On the origin of this nickname (pronounced *gaúcho* in Brazil), see "Gaúcho" (Origen probable de este nombre y su significación), por Daniel Barros Grez, in Primera Reunión del Congreso Científico Latino-Americano, etc., vol. v (Buenos Aires, 1898), pp. 17-25; and R. Lenz, *op. cit.*, I, No. 523, pp. 344-348.

¡Que pucha,¹ qué quemazón!
 ¡Qué despachar tan barato!
 Se mira allí a cada rato
 De lo lindo a lo mejor,
 Si en todo San Salvador
 ¡No hay casa de mejor trato!

¡Conque a la carga, paisanos,
 Mujeres grandes y chicos
 Puebleros,² pobres y ricos,
 Naciones y americanos!
 Don³ Sanguinetti y hermanos
 Con la mayor atención
 Para vender a montón
 De todo lo que se quiera
 En su casa los espera
 Y hasta otra nueva ocasión.

ANICETO GALLARETA.

Dolores, Julio de 1881.

II.

The second composition of an Argentine *payador* in Entre-Ríos refers to one of those periodical revolutions in the Uruguay Republic which, since the political emancipation of the so-called "Orientales" of the former "Provincia Cisplatina," have constituted the typical struggle between the two political factions⁴ named *Colorados* ("red party") and *Blancos* ("white party").

Prepárense Entre-rianos.⁵
 Que el Oriental ya invadió;
 Dicen que desembarcó
 Allá en Landa o en Galiano,
 Y trae triunfo en la mano
 Porque trae muchos aliados;
 Muchos de aquí se han pasado
 Y es porque están resentidos.
 Es jefe muy aguerrido
 Ese general gatiado

¹ See Rufino José Cuervo, *Apuntaciones Críticas sobre el Lenguaje Bogotano con frecuente referencia al de los Pueblos Hermanos de América*, Quinta Edición muy aumentada, etc. (París, 1907), pp. 483-484.

² Popular term for "inhabitants of a small country town."

³ Not used in Spanish; but we say "Don Enrique," "Don Juan," etc.

⁴ Formed by the late General Rivera; and General Artigas is the idol of the white party. Rivero and Artigas were two prominent political leaders during the war of the independence of Uruguay. I could never learn, however, what are the real political principles of these two parties.

⁵ The natives of the Argentine province of Entre Ríos (between the Uruguay and Paraná Rivers).

Es jefe muy subalterno
 El Cuadril Blanco, señores;
 Si tiene algunos honores
 Se los debe a su gobierno;
 Lo han metido en este infierno.

Dice que los va a pelear
 Y también piensa triunfar
 El día de la batalla
 Porque el que pisa en sus playas
 En el campo lo ha de hallar.
 Esto dice el Colorado: —
 Soy segundo general
 Y he sabido ejecutar
 Las órdenes que me han dado;
 Yo nunca atrás he mirado,
 En esto pienso mirar
 Porque el bayo va a quedar
 Cuidando mi retaguarda.
 Como jefe de vanguardia
 En la raya he de triunfar.
 El bayo es muy aguerrido
 Y un general muy valiente,
 Tiene reunida su gente,
 Los espera prevenido.
 No quiere ser destituido,
 No demuestra cobardía,
 Deseando que llegue el día
 Para darles la batalla
 El bayo dice en la raya
 La batalla va a ser mía.

GOYO AGUILAR.

Gualeguaychú,¹ Febrero 1.º de 1878.

III.

A PARÁ PROVERB.

The following proverb may contribute to the study of the genuine
 Pará mind:—

Vida do Pará
 Vida de descanso
 Comer de arremeço
 Dormir de balanço.

Life of Pará
 Life of Repose
 Eating by approaching
 Sleeping in rocking-chair.²

¹ The name of a river, and also of a small town, in Entre-Rios. *Guale-guaychu* (and also *Guale-guay*), a river name of Yaro (Charrúa) origin.

² Or, in *hamaca*, called simply *maca*.

IV.

A PORANGABA.¹

Minha gentil *Porangaba*,
Imagem, visão querida,
Só teu amor me conforta
Nos agros transe da vida.

Quando ouço o jurity
Soltar saudosa um gemido,
Saudoso pensando em ti
Respondo com um ai dorido.

Si alli na vizinha matta
Terno sabiá gorgeia,
Desse amor que me inspiraste
Vorza a chama se ateia.

Ou procure o provoador,
Ou divague na espessura,
Mostra-me a mente abrazada
Tua elegante figura.

Estando de ti ausente,
Da saudade eu sinto a dôr,
Serão teus os meus suspiros,
Minha afeição, meu amor.

Da vida o doce prazer
Em mim fenece e se acaba,
Só esse amor não fallece,
Minha gentil *Porangaba*.

V.

These *cantares* in Quechua were given me in 1907 in Santiago de Chile by the Franciscan monk Fray Mariófilo W. Villegas, who emigrated from Bolivia.

QUECHUA POPULAR SONGS OF BOLIVIA.

Isçay cauac karcka
Kinsa cauac karcka
Icha chay ucninua
Konkaykinam karcka.

¹ From Tupí *porá*, "nice," and *abá*, "man" (or perhaps *ába*, "head"). Composed by Laurival Açucena, the famous representative of popular poetry in Brazil; and published for the first time in the newspaper Oasis (Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, 1898). Açucena is also the author of the "Canto do Potiguara," published in the Echo Miguelinho. *Potiguára* were the Tupí Indians found by the first Portuguese discoverers in the territories comprising to-day the above-quoted state of northeastern Brazil.

Munakuiki niuarckanki,
Maipin chay munakuiniki,
Kkakapichu orckopichu
Chayri runac llactanpichu.

DESPEDIDA (GUACKASPA).

Ripuyta yuyarispaña,
Con el alma enterneçada,

Paran paranta guackaspa,
Quiero hacer la despedida.

Imaynan tucucapunña,
Tan pronto tanta alegría,

Sonckoymin llocsinayaguan
Al dejar tu compañía.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 20, 1915.